

unsuccessfully to prevent. Dr. Walker has done a fine job of capturing the essence of Wallace's foreign policy ideals, and has enlarged on material covered by the Schapsmeier brothers. Unfortunately, Dr. Walker's admiration for Wallace has rendered him a Wallace apologist in several instances, most noticeably regarding Wallace's indefensible polarization due to his intransigent defense of the Soviet Union throughout 1947-1948. An appreciable analysis of Wallace's foreign policy is relegated to a few brief, but extremely insightful, pages near the book's end. Nevertheless, Dr. Walker has performed a credible job of "de-dissertationizing" his doctoral dissertation, and has provided new and valuable insights into a fascinating man.

—Ronald Rayman
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In Defense of the Public Liberty, by Samuel B. Griffith II. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co. Inc., 1976. pp. 725. \$14.95.

Samuel B. Griffith's *In Defense of the Public Liberty* is a very readable, enjoyable account of the events of 1760 to 1781. The book provides some valuable insights into the Revolutionary War period. This history is a successful and sensible account of the most important military, political, and diplomatic events of the period. It provides more detailed information concerning those events than is usually to be found in such a general history. This information includes excerpts from the private diaries and correspondence of the major American, British, and French military and political participants as well as contemporary newspaper accounts and government records. In combination with extensive background material relating to the Anglo-American and Anglo-French relationships prior to 1760, these sources serve to clarify the issues at hand and the positions of each faction.

Mr. Griffith's analysis of the Anglo-American conflict is traditional. He emphasizes the importance of the initially covert, then following the Franco-American alliance of 1778, overt, French aid to the American cause. His analysis of the military proceedings of the war itself, while very accomplished and well reasoned, presents little new material or ideas. The real value of *In Defense of the Public Liberty* lies in its exceptionally lucid treatment. It is a history made accessible to lay readers, without having sacrificed scholarship.

—Dennis J. Pogue
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